

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAM-01

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AEC-05

AID-05 NEAE-00 AECE-00 SAB-01 /094 W

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P R 191506Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6716

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: STATE 277385 (NOTAL)

1. PERTINENT VERBATIM SECTION OF PM RABIN'S INTERVIEW

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WITH BRITISH INDEPENDENT TELEVISION DECEMBER 12 IS AS

FOLLOWS:

"HAS ISRAEL A NUCLEAR WEAPON?"

ANSWER: "ISRAEL IS NOT A NUCLEAR POWER--A NUCLEAR STATE. ISRAEL HAS COMMITTED ITSELF NOT TO BE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE A NUCLEAR WEAPON TO THE MIDDLE EAST."

QUESTION: "HOW QUICKLY COULD YOU BE SECOND?"

ANSWER: "I HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE NO TEMPTATION BY THE OTHER SIDE TO INTRODUCE A NUCLEAR WEAPON. I BELIEVE THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE THE SECOND, BUT WE HAVE TO BE NOT THE FIRST, NOT THE SECOND, BUT AT THE SAME TIME."

2. COMMENT: NEW PART OF STATEMENT OF COURSE IS THAT ISRAEL CANNOT AFFORD TO BE THE SECOND TO INTRODUCE THE WEAPON. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO PUT HIGHER PREMIUM THAN BEFORE ON MUTUAL ISRAELI-ARAB PERCEPTIONS OF CAPABILITY AND INTENTION TO EMPLOY A NUCLEAR WEAPON.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON16569
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740369-0604
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741223/aaaaatdu.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 STATE 277385
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS
TAGS: MPOL, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005